

43. A method for shipping a head element removed from a disk drive, said method comprising the steps of:

removing said head element from said disk drive;

applying a protective coating to said head element;

5 placing said head element into a container; and,

transporting said container.

44. The method, as claimed in Claim 43, further comprising the step of cleaning said head element prior to said step of applying a protective coating.

45. The method, as claimed in Claim 43, further comprising the step of mounting said head element to a shipping comb.

46. The method, as claimed in Claim 45, wherein said step of applying a protective coating to said head element occurs following mounting said element to said shipping comb.

47. A method for storing a head element removed from a disk drive, said method comprising the steps of:

- removing said head element from said disk drive;
- applying a protective coating to said head element; and,
- placing said head element in a storage container.

5 48. The method, as claimed in Claim 47, further comprising the step of cleaning said head element prior to said step of applying a protective coating.

49. The method, as claimed in Claim 47, further comprising the step of mounting said head element to a shipping comb.

50. The method, as claimed in Claim 49, wherein said step of applying a protective coating to said head element occurs following mounting said head element to said shipping comb.

51. In subcombination, from a disk drive that is disassembled and at least partially reworked, the subcombination comprising:

a head element for transferring data to and from said disk;

a protective coating on said head element applied after disassembly.

52. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 51, further comprising a shipping comb, wherein said head element is mounted on said shipping comb.

53. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 51, wherein said protective coating comprises polymeric fluorocarbon.

54. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 51, wherein said protective coating is applied utilizing a solvent-mediated deposition process.

55. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 51, wherein said protective coating is applied utilizing a vapor-mediated deposition process.

56. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 51, wherein said protective coating is applied by depositing precursor molecules in the vapor phase.

57. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 51, wherein said protective coating is a thickness of greater than 50 angstroms.

58. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 57, wherein said protective coating is exposed to a solvent.

59. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 54, wherein said protective coating is post-processed to enhance its corrosion protection.

60. The subcombination, as claimed in Claim 59, wherein said protective coating is exposed to an energy source selected from the group consisting of infrared, ultraviolet, plasma, or radiant heat.